

new music concerts presents:
A Tribute to the Group of Seven



Alban Berg in the studio of the Swiss artist, Franz Rederer, 1934.

8:00 pm Wednesday March 6 1996 (free admission)
The Gallery School / Art Gallery of Ontario

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New Music Concerts' sixth event of its 25th anniversary season is being presented in partnership with the Art Gallery of Ontario's *OH! Canada Project*, an ambitious, multifaceted, Gallery-wide celebration of the 75th anniversary of the Art of the Group of Seven, the art of Canada, and what it means to be Canadian. A total of 22 musicians conducted by NMC Artistic Director **Robert Aitken** will present a free concert featuring two prize-winning Canadian compositions: **Michel Longtin's** *Pohjatuuli*, which received the Jules Léger prize in 1986, and **Rose Bolton's** *Ostinato*, which won her New Music Concerts' 1995 Young Composer's Contest. The second half of the evening is devoted to a rare performance of **Alban Berg's** *Chamber Concerto* for violin, piano, and thirteen wind instruments.

Michel Longtin was born in Montreal in 1946. His early musical training took place with André Prévost and Jaques Hétu. He later received the first doctoral degree in composition awarded by the University of Montreal, following studies with Serge Garant. He also pursued advanced studies in theatre and pantomime while attending the Banff School of Fine Arts in the early 1960's. He has written film scores, electroacoustic compositions, chamber music and numerous orchestral works. Since 1987 he has taught composition at the University of Montreal. Longtin defines the title of his work:

Pohjatuuli is an old Finnish word which means: the North Wind (pohja: north; tuuli: wind). The work was inspired at once by northern climatic attributes (wind, cold, ice, etc.), by paintings of the Canadian painters from the Group of Seven as well as Tom Thomson, and by the music of Jean Sibelius. The works by these painters characterize exceptionally well the personality and Nordic essence of our country. Sibelius has always symbolized and evoked in my mind the vastness and solitude of Northern landscapes; he also represents peace of mind and serenity. This work intends to merge the language of so-called "new" music with Sibelius's more traditional idiom. A commission from the Toronto International Festival, *Pohjatuuli* was premièred at Roy Thomson Hall on June 25, 1984, by the ensemble of the Société de musique contemporaine du Québec with Serge Garant conducting.

Rose Bolton is a recent honours graduate of the University of Western Ontario, where her composition teachers included Alexina Louie, Jack Behrens, David Myska and Peter-Paul Koprowski. In addition to her activities as a composer she has been a violinist with the chamber orchestra of the Royal Conservatory of Music and performs regularly as a fiddler in a local Celtic trio. Her composition for nine instrumentalists, *Ostinato*, will receive its première performance. This work was awarded a prize of \$3,000 donated by the **Herbert Aitken Foundation** in New Music Concerts' 25th Anniversary Composers' Contest.

The *Kammerkonzert* by **Alban Berg** (1885-1935) was composed in the two years between the publication and first performance of his opera, *Wozzeck*. The genesis of the work was contemporaneous with Schoenberg's development of the principles of serial composition. In his open letter to Schoenberg, dated 9th February 1925, Berg explained a special feature of the work: *In a musical motto that precedes the first movement, the letters of your name, Webern's and my names have been captured—as far as is possible in musical notation—in three themes (or motifs) which have been allotted an important rôle in the melodic development of this music.* It is a large-scale composition in three movements. The first movement (*Thema scherzoso con variazioni*) features the piano as soloist, the second (*Adagio*) the violin, while the finale (*Rondo ritmico con introduzione*) brings the two soloists together for a powerful conclusion. **New Music Concerts'** performance of this landmark composition features violinist **Fujiko Imajishi**, pianist **Marc Widner**, and the NMC ensemble conducted by **Robert Aitken**.

The concert takes place at **8:00 pm** on
Wednesday March 6, 1996
at the **Gallery School** of the
Art Gallery of Ontario,
317 Dundas Street West.
Admission to the Gallery
(and the concert) is **free** after 5:00 pm.

New Music Concerts 25th Anniversary Season 1995-1996

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**Robert
Aitken**

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director**

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**Saturday, October 28th, 1995, 8:00 pm, Glenn Gould Studio:
An Evening with Christos Hatzis**

The première performance of three recently completed song cycles by this prolific Greek/Canadian composer featuring soprano Monica Whicher and countertenors Kyle Church Cheseborough and Ron Greydanus.

**Sunday November 12th, 1995, 2:30 pm, Walter Hall:
Orpheus Then and Now**

A tribute to British composer Sir Michael Tippett in his 90th year. New Music Concerts in co-operation with the Aldeburgh Connection presents a programme including works for voice and piano and string quartet. Featured artists on this concert include soprano Valdine Anderson, tenor Benjamin Butterfield, baritone James Westman, pianists Bruce Ubukata and Stephen Ralls and The Accordes String Quartet.

**Sunday, December 3rd, 1995, 8:00 pm, Première Dance Theatre:
Henri Dutilleux**

This concert honouring the famed 80 year old French composer features The Accordes String Quartet playing his "Ainsi la nuit". This evening's performance also includes the première performance of Bruce Mather's "Vega Sicilia" and works by composers Harry Freedman, and Omar Daniel, featuring guitarist Rachel Gauk, soprano Valdine Anderson and cellist David Hetherington. Presented in co-operation with the Toronto Symphony.

**Friday, January 12, 1996, 8:00 pm, Recital Hall, Ford Centre:
Homage to Morton Feldman**

On the 70th anniversary of his birth New Music Concerts presents a film interview with this legendary composer and performs his rarely heard "Crippled Symmetry" with Robert Aitken, flute, Barbara Pritchard, piano and Robin Engelman, percussion.

**Sunday, February 4th, 1996, 8:00 pm, Première Dance Theatre:
GRAMÉ**

An appearance by the exciting French contemporary music ensemble from Lyon on the occasion of their North American tour. This concert features new live and electro-acoustic works by French and Canadian composers.

**Wednesday, March 6th, 1996, 8:00 pm, The Gallery School, AGO:
A Tribute to the Group of Seven**

In co-operation with the Art Gallery of Ontario, the New Music Concerts Ensemble, conducted by Robert Aitken, presents a free concert honouring the current Group of Seven exhibition. Canadian composer Michel Longtin's "Pohjatuuli" was inspired by the paintings of some of Canada's most celebrated artists. Also being performed are Alban Berg's classic "Kammerkonzert" with Fujiko Imajishi, violin and Marc Widner, piano and the prize winning piece of New Music Concert's Young Composer's contest.

**Friday, May 24th, 1996, 8:00 pm, Première Dance Theatre:
AGON**

This ten member ensemble from Prague, specializing in alternative music, performs recent works by young Czech composers with two works by Vancouver based composer Rudolph Komorous.

For further information or seasons subscriptions:

☎ 416 961 9594

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